

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 6-11, 13, 15-23, 28-31, 33, 34, 36-40, 42 and 44-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6-11, 13, 15-18, 20-23, 28-31, 33, 34, 36-40, 42 and 44-48 were rejected by the Examiner. Claims 19 and 43 were objected to by the Examiner.

**The Amendment**

The claim amendments are supported, for example, by original claims 1, 19, 39 and 43.

The amendments to the claims are being made to place the application in a more favorable form for allowance. The Examiner has considered Claims 19 and 43 as allowable subject matter in the instant office action provided that they are rewritten in independent form. See pg. 13. All other claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

No new matter is added in these amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments and allow the application.

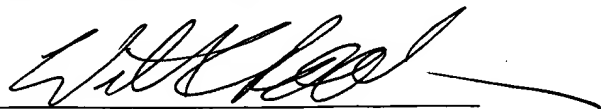
**CONCLUSION**

Enclosed with this response is a petition for a one-month extension of time including authorization for the prescribed fee. If any other fees are due with this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing Docket No. 05742-0004-NPUS00.

Applicant believes that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (949) 759-3904.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 20, 2004

  
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